

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image processing method and an image processing apparatus are disclosed, in which curved linear objects and uneven linear objects as well as rectilinear objects can be detected easily and accurately. Edge pixels P1 extracted from a gray-scale image to be processed are sequentially considered to search for an edge pixel having an opposite direction of density gradient to each of the edge pixels P1 within the range of a predetermined length W along the direction orthogonal to the edges. Once an edge pixel P2 meeting these conditions is extracted, a line segment having a length L is set extending in the direction C parallel to the edge of the edge pixels P1 from an intermediate point Q between the extracted edge pixel P2 and the edge pixel P1 under consideration.